

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 12-15, and AMEND claim 1 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) An electrocorrosion preventive rolling bearing assembly, comprising:

an inner raceway member;

an outer raceway member;

at least one circumferential row of a plurality of rolling elements rollingly interposed between respective raceway grooves of the inner and outer raceway members;

an electrically insulating layer formed on at least one of the inner and outer raceway members so as to cover a peripheral surface and opposite annular end faces of such at least one of the inner and outer raceway members, the peripheral surface of such at least one of the inner and outer raceway members being engageable with either a housing or a shaft; and

a tool reference plane defined in at least one of opposite sides of the raceway groove of the raceway member, the tool reference plane being utilizable for a process of finishing the electrically insulating layer or for a thickness control of the insulating layer,

wherein an inner peripheral surface of the outer raceway member or an outer peripheral surface of the inner raceway member is of a cylindrical shape, excluding a portion of the inner peripheral surface of the outer raceway or the outer peripheral surface of the inner raceway where the raceway groove is positioned,

the tool reference plane is defined by a bare surface area in the end face of the raceway member, which is left uncovered by the insulating layer.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The electrocorrosion preventive rolling bearing assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the tool reference plane is a surface area formed by means of a hardened steel cutting process or a grinding process.

5-12. (Cancelled)